

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

AID-05 /072 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:MHENDERSON:MHS

APPROVED BY EA:RHMILLER

EA/VLC:JDROSENTHAL

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R 171655Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012721

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, LA, TH

SUBJECT: THAI/LAO RELATIONS

REF: VIENTIANE 6632, DEC. 22, 1975

1. LAO CHARGE CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY MILLER JAN 16 TO FOLLOW UP EARLIER LAO REQUEST AT VIENTIANE (REF-TEL) THAT U.S. INTERCEDE WITH THAILAND IN THE THAI/LAO DISPUTE WHICH RESULTED IN THE CLOSING OF THE THAI BORDER. THE CHARGE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO FOLLOW UP THE MATTER HERE SEEMED OUT-OF-DATE BUT INSISTED THAT THESE INSTRUCTIONS WERE STILL CURRENT. HE ALSO ARGUED THAT THE RE-OPENING OF THE THAI BORDER (JAN. 1) WHICH WAS LIMITED TO ONLY TWO POINTS, STILL HAS NOT RESOLVED THE SEVERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE CLOSURE. CHARGE REQUESTED US TO USE OUR "INFLUENCE", SINCE WE "WERE AFTER ALL A SUPER-POWER" AND CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THAILAND, TO GET THE THAI TO OPEN UP MORE OF THE BORDER.

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2. MILLER EXPLAINED TO THE CHARGE OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN LAOS HAD IMPROVED WITH THE OPENING OF THE TWO POINTS ON THE BORDER SOME DAYS AGO AND OUR VIEW THAT THE PROBLEM WAS ONE TO BE RESOLVED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES THEMSELVES.

3. THE CHARGE, WHO WAS ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS THAT APPEARED TO US OUT OF DATE, REPEATEDLY DID MAKE THE POINT THAT THE LIMITED REOPENING STILL RESULTED IN ECONOMIC DISLOCATION FOR LAOS.

KISSINGER

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: vogelfj
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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